

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 858

By Hardaway

A RESOLUTION to honor and celebrate the formal renaming of a portion of Linden Avenue as “Martin Luther King, Jr., Avenue.”

WHEREAS, this General Assembly is proud to salute those exemplary events which honor the memories of those intrepid Americans who advanced the ongoing struggle for civil and human rights and promoted racial equality in our State; and

WHEREAS, from March 28, 2012 through April 4, 2012, the City of Memphis will honor the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., by formally renaming a portion of Linden Avenue as “Martin Luther King, Jr., Avenue”; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was a clergyman, civil rights activist, and humanitarian, who dedicated his life to fighting the many injustices that African-Americans were forced to endure, even after the heinous institution of slavery was abolished; and

WHEREAS, while there are nearly 900 cities across the country with avenues, boulevards, and streets named after Dr. King, the City of Memphis, the place where this champion of human rights spent his final days, was still without this fitting tribute; and

WHEREAS, the nearly, one-mile stretch of road to be named in his honor is located in Downtown Memphis near Clayborn Temple, where Dr. King spoke to sanitation workers just days before he was assassinated on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel on April 4, 1968; and

WHEREAS, Berlin Boyd, a former Interim City Council member and highly-talented civic leader, crafted the proposal to honor the man who spearheaded the Civil Rights Movement and gave his life in service of the struggle for fairness, justice, and equality; and

WHEREAS, in conjunction with this momentous occasion, there will be several events to commemorate Dr. King's life and legacy, including the Civil Rights Gala and Banquet on April 3,

2012, and the MLK Avenue Unveiling Ceremony and the MLK Legacy Lives on Linden

Reception on April 4, 2012; and

WHEREAS, as part of the theme, “MLK Legacy Lives on Linden,” citizens will be treated to remarks from local and national leaders and musical selections from numerous students, choirs, and internationally acclaimed artists; and

WHEREAS, the featured speakers for the week include Memphis Mayor A.C. Wharton, former Interim Councilman Berlin Boyd, Congressman Steve Cohen, Shelby County Mayor Mark Luttrell, former Memphis Mayor Dr. W.W. Herenton, Reverend Billy Kyles, Rabbi Micah Greenstein, Ron Redwing, Kirk Whalum, Councilman Edmund Ford, Jr., Lori Spicer, the Memphis Academy of Health Sciences Choir, and the New Olivet Sanctuary Choir, among others; and

WHEREAS, this historic event is certain to be instrumental in keeping Dr. King’s dream alive, bringing hope, healing, and inspiration to the entire community; and

WHEREAS, it is most appropriate that the members of this body pause to recognize and commend this laudable event as its participants honor the memory of a visionary leader whose courage and wisdom positively shaped the tenor of his times; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and celebrate the formal renaming a portion of Linden Avenue as “Martin Luther King, Jr., Avenue” and applaud the entire Memphis community as they pay tribute to the impeccable character and extraordinary accomplishments of the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.